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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 22 | Humidity 81% Partly Cloudy Sensex 80,424 | Nifty 24,572 | Gold 71,338 | Silver 83,923 | Dollar 83.91 | Euro 92.59 | GBP 108.63

TREE DOWN

Citizens file complaint against Deputy Conservator of Forest of BBMP for axing tree without consultation

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METRO UPDATES

Bike and cycle sharing facilities to come up at Orange Line; Green Line extension almost done

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Rs 3 crore is spent a month to manage Rajakaluves across the city, but money can't clear silt or prevent encroachment. Flooding is a symptom of this ailment...

OUR ARTERIES ARE CLOGGED, FOLKS

No monitoring of silt removal and anti-encroachment drive has no steam

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Did you know that the civic agency spends Rs 3 crore a month to manage Rajakaluves. It certainly doesn't seem so after each strong spell of rain, when we are wading through the waterlogged streets. Even the sensors are not of any help it looks like. Last week's rainfall starkly highlighted the city's deteriorating infrastructure and its inability to handle heavy downpours.

The recurring issues underscore systemic flaws and the neglectful approach of officials. In last week's rain low-lying areas were flooded, stormwater drains that should be directing rainwater away instead overflowed and inundated residential neighbourhoods. The drains, clogged with silt and debris, fail to do their job.

The inadequate clearing of silt from roadside and stormwater drains, coupled with the absence of reinforced and elevated walls along these drains, resulted in severe flooding in many areas.

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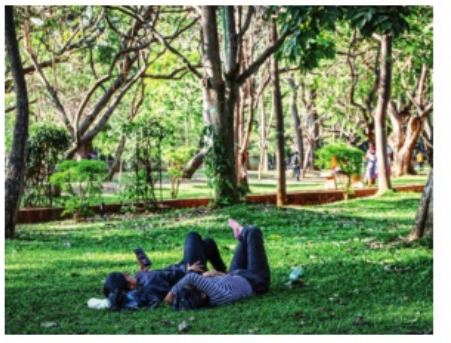
"The operation to remove silt from stormwater drains is ongoing. Monitoring is being conducted to ensure that no flood-like situations arise anywhere, and precautions are being taken. Permanent solutions are being implemented in all 74 sensitive and highly sensitive areas

— BS Prahlad, Chief Engineer, BBMP

Life's no walk in the park for women

Several women speak up about instances of harassment in parks, inability to get help



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Bengaluru is among the cities in India to have the maximum number of parks, but a surge in incidents of harassment against women in public spaces has put the spotlight on safety.

Recent occurrences in various parts of the city, including Kittur Rani Chennamma Park, Cubbon Park, HSR Layout, and other areas, have sparked concern. Two women filed a complaint on Monday with the Wilson Garden Police Station about a disturbing incident that took place at Rani Park on June 30. The women, who were walking in the park around 4 pm, were followed by a man believed to be around 40-45 years old and visibly intoxicated.

Initially, the women reported the incident to the 'We Love Rani Park' walkers group, a dedicated local community organisation. The victims had initially hesitated to report the incident due to concerns about their reputation and family, as well as uncertainty about the proper protocol. The victim, who wishes to remain anonymous, recounted her experience, saying,

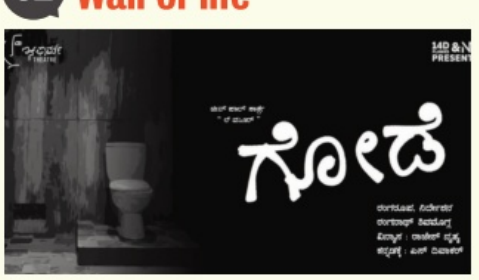
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Musical fusion

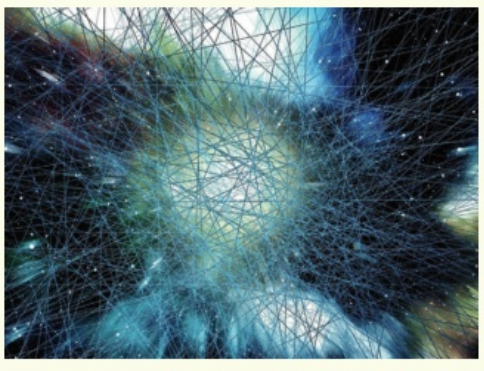
Be part of an extraordinary musical event featuring The Next Dimension, a powerhouse trio comprised of legendary musicians Gary Husband, Etienne Mbappé, and Ranjit Barot. For over 15 years, they have been the driving force behind some of the most influential sounds in modern music. Now, as The Next Dimension, they are embarking on a new journey that is set to captivate audiences worldwide, offering a seamless fusion of genres that will resonate with music lovers of all tastes.
Where: Windmills, Whitefield
When: August 23–24, 9:30 pm onwards

02 Wall of life



Watch 'Gode,' a wall play based on the short story `Le Moor` (The Wall) by Jean-Paul Sartre, the pioneer of existentialism, which questions the existence of human life. The In Form Theatre team hopes that this play will be a warning sound in these unfortunate times when we are experiencing the uncertainty of life.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
When: August 20, 7:30 pm

03 Science & tech exhibit



Join in to explore the city's journey in shaping science and technology, with historic discoveries and modern achievements on display through 'Sci560—Science in the City' by Science Gallery Bengaluru. At the launch on August 24 at 6 pm, Thejaswi Udupa will host a quiz to test your knowledge of the history of science and research in Bengaluru! On August 25, there will be two walkthroughs, and a bilingual lecture on map-making in both English and Kannada by architect Naresh Narasimhan.
Where: Science Gallery Bengaluru, Sanjaynagar
When: August 24 to December 31

In pursuit of justice
Doctors are observing their indefinite strike and demanding a hike in stipends at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday. They are also protesting, condemning the brutal death of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, and demanding proper justice.

Tomato prices plunge from ₹100 to ₹10-₹20 per kg

Political turmoil in Bangladesh slashes tomato prices in Bengaluru; fallen prices bring big relief to consumers but leave tomato farmers, merchants in lurch

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Tomato prices, which had surged to nearly Rs 100 per kilogramme a few weeks ago, have now plummeted to between Rs 10 and Rs 20 per kg. This dramatic decrease is attributed to the ongoing political instability in Bangladesh, which is driving down tomato prices for consumers in the city, but it is also creating significant difficulties for farmers and merchants.

Kolar, the second-largest tomato market, traditionally exported between 800 and 1,000 metric tonnes of tomatoes to Bangladesh through its APMC market. However, in the past four weeks, only 50–60 MT have been shipped, leading to a decrease in demand and consequently lower prices. A carton of tomatoes, which cost Rs 800-900 last August, is now selling for Rs 300-400. Khaleel, a tomato merchant, noted, "We previously dispatched 10 to 20 trucks of tomatoes daily, but for the past 15 days, demand has diminished. This has led to lower prices for farmers and delayed payments. We are yet to receive Rs 40–50 crore from Bangladeshi traders." Srinath, another merchant, added, "We used to supply a significant quantity of tomatoes to Bangladesh, often on credit. Now, we are struggling to get paid. Despite the losses, we continue to send one or two trucks to keep the business float."

A carton of tomatoes is now sold for Rs 300 to Rs 400

> **"We previously dispatched 10 to 20 trucks of tomatoes daily, but for past 15 days, demand has diminished. This has led to lower prices & delayed payments**
> –Khaleel, a tomato merchant

Price hikes soon

However, in the coming weeks, tomato and vegetable prices are expected to rise owing to heavy rainfall. Farmers, who initially were praying for rainfall, are now pleading for it to stop to save their harvests. The increased moisture levels in tomato-growing areas have heightened the risk of spoilage for crops such as tomatoes, groundnuts, pulses, sunflowers, and betel leaves.

In the Nayakanahatti region, farmers are struggling to drain the excess water. Prakash B from N Devarahalli noted, "We were hopeful for a successful harvest this season, but the ongoing rain has caused serious problems with water accumulation in the fields. We are actively breaking the bunds to release the water. If we cannot manage this, the tomato crop, which spans over 80 hectares in our village and is currently in the fruit-forming stage, will suffer substantial damage due to spoilage from the excessive moisture."

Ginger prices

On the other hand, ginger prices have plummeted, leaving farmers in distress. As of June 15, the wholesale price of fresh ginger was around Rs 400 per kg. Major ginger markets in the state, including those in Doddaballapur, Shikaripur, and Soraba, had a total yield of 538 quintals. However, according to agricultural sales data, only a minimal amount of ginger, specifically no quintals, reached the Soraba market. Consequently, farmers are now receiving only Rs 90 per kg. Three years ago, wholesale ginger prices reached Rs 1,000 per kg. The current drastic price drop has led to significant losses for farmers, especially in Shimoga district's Shikaripura and Soraba areas and in Davanagere's Harihara region. As a result, many farmers are abandoning ginger cultivation and switching to rice.

In Karnataka, ginger was cultivated on 24,840 hectares in 2023, yielding 2,71,588 metric tonnes. This year, the target is 25,834 hectares, with 17,890 hectares already covered. The state farmers are forced to contact Maharashtra's traders when local markets fail to offer fair prices. Manjunath Reddy, a farmer from Bidar district, said, "We transported ginger to Latur (Maharashtra) last week and received only Rs 25 per kg. In just a month, wholesale ginger prices have fallen by around 90 per cent, with current prices ranging from Rs 25–30 per kg. In Kerala, the largest producer, ginger production is expected to reach 2,82,451 metric tons. Farmers invest a minimum of Rs 5 lakh per acre. Even with an average yield of 8 tonnes per acre and a price of Rs 50 per kg, the costs outweigh the returns, leading to significant losses for farmers. The lack of appropriate market prices for agricultural products in the state is causing widespread distress among farmers."

Citizens cry murder after 'healthy' tree axed

RR Nagar residents go to cops against DCF for issuing order to remove rain tree without consultation

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Residents of RR Nagar have filed a police complaint against the Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for issuing an order to remove a 50-year-old rain tree in the area without consulting locals or following procedure.

Residents say the DCF has done grave injustice in granting permission to axe the tree that was in good health and posed no danger to life or property.

"The BBMP should have appointed a senior officer from the Tree Expert Committee to objectively establish if the tree was in good health and not in the corner of the road. It is obvious that no inspection was done before the order was issued to axe it," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board of Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

Locals allege they reached out to the BBMP Forest Department while the officers on the ground were cutting the branches. When apprised of the situation, while the DCF expressed shock, he also assured them that the tree would not be cut. Based on his assurance, residents left the spot to file a complaint at the nearest police station. However, when they returned, the tree was already removed.

"We also reached out to a TEC member and we have been told that the committee was not in the know. The BBMP should have appointed an officer from the committee to establish if the tree was in good health. As per the report submitted by an expert committee appointed by the Supreme Court, the ecological value of the 50-year-old tree (Rs 37,25,000) should be recovered from the DCF and the property owner," added Hoover.

"It was a healthy tree and was standing upright, without any tilt. BBMP never visited the spot for inspection and did not consult residents. Had they done the spot inspection, they wouldn't have axed it.

When BM reached out to the forest department, BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest of BBMP, informed us that the tree was removed as it was a threat to life and property.

"The tree was located at the corner of a road in Sachidananda Nagar and its branches were leaning and brushing against vehicles.

The owner of a property brought it to notice and requested that branches be removed. When we reached the spot and trimmed branches, it leaned further and our ground officers realised it would eventually be uprooted, causing damage to life and property. However, when citizens objected, I sent my staff to stop the work. By then, all the branches were already cut," said Swamy.

According to Shankar Narayan, a senior citizen living in RR Nagar, the tree was in healthy condition and was never a threat.

"It was a healthy tree and was standing upright, without any tilt. BBMP never visited the spot for inspection and did not consult residents. Had they done the spot inspection, they wouldn't have axed it. Forest department officials are hands in glove with the city's tree mafia," said Narayan.

"The DCF has the authority to issue permission to cut a tree only when it is a threat to life and property. However, if the public objected, which was the case, it should have been referred to the Tree Expert Committee.

The tree officer, which is DCF, must use his discretion cautiously and explore all alternatives before granting permission to axe it. If these steps were not followed, it implies that he has overstepped his authority," said Dattatreya Devare, a city-based environmentalist and trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

Sexual assault accused arrested

The Southeast division police arrested the accused in a sexual assault case involving a college student in HSR Layout within 10 hours of the incident. According to authorities, the suspect, identified as 24-year-old Mukeshwaran, was found hiding in a house in Adugodi.

Mukeshwaran, originally from Tamil Nadu, works as a choreographer.

Southeast division Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Sarah Fathima stated that five teams were formed to apprehend the suspect. The movements of the accused were captured on CCTV, and the arrest was made based on the bike's registration number. When asked about the woman, she said, "The victim is receiving treatment and is showing signs of recovery," adding that the further investigation is underway.

The accused has no criminal background.

The victim, a final year BCA graduate, is being treated at a hospital.

The incident occurred on Sunday when the woman and her friend were in a car when they had a minor accident with an auto rickshaw. While her friend argued with the rickshaw driver, the woman got out of the car and started walking.

Mukeshwaran, who was intoxicated, and returning from a party on his bike, offered her a ride home but instead took her to an isolated location near the truck parking region on Hosur Service Road and sexually assaulted her.

Car topples on Electronic City flyover

A car overturned while making way for an ambulance, narrowly avoiding a plunge off the Electronic City flyover, at approximately 5.36 pm on Monday. The driver escaped with minor injuries. The traffic police promptly arrived at the scene for further investigation.

Bomb hoax at Whitefield mall

An email issued a bomb threat, claiming that an explosive device was planted inside the Whitefield mall. The message warned that everyone inside would meet a gruesome end, asserting that none of the occupants deserved to live. The threat was ominously signed off as "knr".

BMB & agencies

HC urges authorities to take action to prevent electrocutions

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The Karnataka High Court has strongly urged the officials of electricity authorities, from the highest-ranking officers to the field workers, to take immediate action to prevent recurring incidents of electrocution caused by negligence in maintaining electrical infrastructure. The court emphasised that citizens should not have to bear the consequences of such repeated negligence, which has led to tragic deaths.

In a recent case, the court dismissed petitions filed by three Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) engineers who had challenged the legality of a criminal negligence case registered against them. The case was related to the electrocution of a woman and her nine-month-old baby near Hope Farm in November 2023. The court stated that the engineers, namely Sreeramu V (Executive Engineer), Subramanya T (Assistant Executive Engineer), and Chethan S (Assistant Engineer, Electrical) of Bescom's Whitefield subdivision, must face investigation.

Avoidable accident

Justice M Nagaprasanna rejected the engineers' contention that the Electrical Inspectorate (EI) report did not hold them individually responsible for the accident. The court noted that although the EI report did not name any individual, it stated that the "accident could have been avoided if the old and dilapidated wires were identified beforehand and were maintained in good condition, and by installing certain safety equipment..."

'Had old wires been identified, maintained, 2 deaths due to electrocution could be avoided'

Furthermore, the court highlighted the allegation in the complaint that the incident of a live electric wire lying on the footpath was reported to Bescom's helpline even before the woman and her daughter stepped on it. The court emphasised that whether there was a complaint registered with the Bescom helpline prior to the incident and whether the officers took note of the complaints from the residents of the area and attended to it immediately are matters that require investigation.

Matter of negligence

The court also pointed out that the consideration of negligence differs in civil and criminal law. It would have been different if the incident had occurred due to natural calamities, but in this case, it was a matter of negligence that resulted in the loss of two precious lives.

The court stressed that responsibility flows from the highest-ranking officials to the lowest rung of officials, and none can escape responsibility in cases of negligence. The court concluded that an investigation is essential in this case to identify the officers responsible for the negligence.

Dirty pile builds up as nobody takes waste out

Accumulated garbage at one of the houses at Meenakshi Layout

Unhygienic conditions prevail as BBMP has not sent pourakarmikas for door-to-door collection in Hagadur Layout for 2 weeks

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Residents of Meenakshi Layout of Hagadur ward in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency have been struggling a lot to dispose waste for the last two weeks. They said that they did not face any problems all these years, but garbage is being piled up as pourakarmikas did not turn up to collect garbage on a regular basis.

They said that Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Solid Waste Management Department has been avoiding sending pourakarmikas to the locality to collect garbage from door to door. "We have been appealing to the BBMP authorities to send people to collect garbage but in vain. It will be a great help for us if the BBMP authorities ensure garbage collection from door to door on a regular basis," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

"We are paying property tax to the BBMP but the Solid Waste Management Department has become apathetic towards its responsibility of clearing garbage on a regular basis. The BBMP Health Department is advising residents to keep surroundings clean but the other department (Solid Waste Management Department) is doing nothing to clear garbage from this layout," said JC Reddy, a resident.

> **BBMP Solid waste management dept has become apathetic towards their responsibility of clearing garbage on regular basis, which is disappointing**
>
> –JC Reddy, resident

A few residents have expressed concern over strangers visiting the layout to collect garbage. "I am worried about the safety of residents at this layout," said a resident.

"The condition of the main road, especially a stretch of the road, is far from satisfactory. The authorities are yet to asphalt the stretch of the road," complained the resident.

Meanwhile, the BBMP Health Inspector of Hagadur ward has said that there were some issues due to the absence of the garbage vehicle drivers. "Now, I have taken measures to clear garbage from Meenakshi Layout and the garbage problems will be fixed without any delay," the health inspector affirmed. Residents are only awaiting some action to be taken.

Notorious black spot is now spic and span

Citizens volunteers, members of Lalbagh Guardians and BBMP officials cleared black spot on Lalbagh Road

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The team poses at the site they cleaned up recently

A group of over ten citizens, alongside members of Lalbagh Guardians and Jhatkaa.org, teamed up with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials to clean a notorious black spot near Lalbagh Road. The area, which had become a dumping ground due to broken roads and footpaths, was targeted in a community-driven effort to reclaim the public space and push for long-term improvements.

The initiative began earlier this month when volunteers from Lalbagh Guardians and Jhatkaa.org visited the site on August 5 to assess the situation. They found that the neglected condition of the road and footpath had turned the area into a magnet for illegal garbage dumping. The team quickly mobilised, sharing images of the site with the Joint Health Inspector (JHI) and discussing the need for immediate action.

"This spot has been an eyesore for a long time," said a volunteer from Jhatkaa.org. "The broken roads and footpaths not only attract garbage but also degrade the overall environment of the area. We knew we needed to bring attention to this issue and collaborate with BBMP to clean it up."

The group was joined by four to six BBMP officials who worked alongside the volunteers to clear the garbage. The event also served as a platform for discussing broader improvements in the area. Among the key demands presented to BBMP were the need for increased green cover on the street, repairs to the road and footpath, and a survey of nearby houses to identify those not disposing of their garbage properly.

"Setting up more green cover on the street would not only beautify the area but also deter people from dumping garbage here in the future," said one of the Lalbagh Guardians. "We also need to ensure that the road and footpath are fixed to prevent the area from becoming a dumping ground again."

The volunteers emphasised the importance of public and BBMP collaboration in maintaining cleanliness and order in the city. "Keeping our city clean is a shared responsibility. While the public needs to be mindful of their actions, the BBMP must enforce rules and provide the necessary infrastructure to support a clean environment," said a participant in the clean-up.

"Garbage has been a health issue to citizens of all genders. Bengaluru, having all the laws, fails at the implementation stage when it comes to garbage. Citizens are stepping forward to ask for their own health and it is good to see some BBMP officials being responsive towards it. However, with BBMP elections still pending it is urgent that we, as citizens, come together to report the garbage in our vicinity to the local JHI officials for a cleaner and better society for ourselves," said Chiku Agarwal from Jhatkaa.org

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Risky crossing
Ashoka Pillar

Pedestrians, are forced to jump over a road divider due to an inconveniently designed zebra crossing opposite to RV Teachers College, on the way to Ashoka Pillar. This poses a significant risk to their safety and more so to the elderly and children.

Mid-road stop
Gandhi Nagar

BMTC buses frequently avoid the regular road along the designated bus stand, near Sivananda Stores forcing commuters who are waiting in the bus shelter to run and catch the buses heading towards Shivajinagar.

Neglected road
Jayanagar

Taaza Thindi main road, Jayanagar, 4th block has been neglected for two years, leading to its rapid deterioration that requires urgent attention.

Orange Line is running on time

From bus stand connectivity to bike parking, cycle sharing, Namma Metro's Phase 3 to have multiple facilities

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Bike parking and cycle sharing services will be available in the two corridors of Namma Metro Phase 3. Mobility experts said that the inclusion of these facilities along the new Orange Line will be a game-changer for city commuters, reducing reliance on personal vehicles and contributing to a greener city.

Multi-modal integration

According to the Union Cabinet note, multi-modal integration is planned at 10 locations, including JP Nagar 4th Phase, Kamakya, Mysore Road, Peenya, BEL Circle, Hebbal, Kempapura, and Hosahalli. These locations will offer interchanges with existing and under-construction Metro stations, BMTC bus stands, Indian Railway stations, and proposed suburban (K-RIDE) stations. All Phase 3 stations will feature dedicated bus bays, pick-up and drop-off zones, pedestrian paths, and auto rickshaw stands. BMTC will extend its feeder bus services to Phase 3 stations, and parking facilities will be available at 11 key stations. Direct connectivity through foot overbridges (FoBs) or skywalks will be provided to two railway stations: Lottegollahalli and Hebbal.

The Phase 3 expansion of the Bangalore Metro Rail Project includes two elevated corridors spanning a total of 44.65 kilometres with 31 stations. Once operational, this phase will bring Bengaluru's active Metro Rail Network to a total of 220.20 km. The project is estimated to cost Rs 15,611 crore. "Phase 3 represents a major expansion of Bengaluru's Metro Rail Network, adding 44.65 km of new metro lines that will connect previously underserved western areas of the city. The new corridors will integrate key zones, including the Peenya Industrial Area, IT hubs along Bannerghatta Road and Outer Ring Road, and manufacturing units on Tumakuru Road. Additionally, the southern part of the city, ORR West, Magadi Road, and other arterial roads will experience improved connectivity and significantly reduced traffic congestion," said an official.

Adding 44 km of new lines, Phase 3 represents a major expansion of B'luru's Metro Rail Network

Eco benefits

The expansion of the Metro Rail Network will contribute to a significant reduction in carbon emissions by providing a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel-based transport. "With reduced travel times and improved access to various parts of the city, productivity is likely to increase as people can reach their workplaces more efficiently. Phase 3 will generate numerous jobs across various sectors, from construction to administration and maintenance. It will provide more equitable access to public transport, benefiting diverse socio-economic groups and reducing transport disparities. This will contribute to an improved quality of life," the official added.

Initially, in 2022, the state government submitted a proposal to the Centre with an estimated cost of ₹16,328 crore for this route, which was revised to ₹15,611 crore. Instead of six-coach trains, three-coach trains will operate on the Magadi Road Corridor. However, in anticipation of future demand, all railway stations will be designed to accommodate six-coach trains.

> **Phase 3 will provide more equitable access to public transport**
> –Official

Double-decker concept

The state government has shown interest in building double-decker flyovers on Metro corridors to reduce traffic congestion. Feasibility reports are being prepared, and tenders have been issued for Corridor-1 (29.2 km) from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Hebbal, Corridor-2 (11.45 km) from Hosahalli to Kadabgere, Corridor-3 (14 km) from Sarjapur to Ibbalur, and Corridor-4 (2.45 km) from Agara to Koramangala 3rd Block.

2 blind commuters slip onto tracks, rescued

Two visually impaired commuters fell onto the Metro tracks at Majestic Metro Station on Monday. According to the BMRCL official statement, around 1:13 pm, two of the three blind passengers travelling from Jaynagar to Attiguppe Metro Station on the Green Line accidentally fell onto the tracks. The security staff at the station quickly responded by activating the emergency trip system. With assistance from fellow passengers, the two individuals were rescued without any injuries. BMRCL confirmed that normal train operations resumed at 1:26 pm on Monday itself.

Green Line Metro extension to run by October end

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The trial runs for the Green Line extension of the Metro have officially commenced. On Sunday morning, signal testing began along the 3.14-kilometre stretch between Nagasandra and Madavara. The existing Metro line, which currently extends from Silk Board to Nagasandra, is now being extended to Madavara, near the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre.

Officials confirmed that the initial trial runs on the Reach-35 line are being conducted between Madavara and Nagasandra, with trains operating at speeds ranging from 3-35 km/h. Commercial operations for the extended route are anticipated to start by the end of October, with the Metro expected to be ready for public use by the third week of September.

The extension project, costing Rs 298 crore, will undergo a final inspection by the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety, with trial operations continuing throughout October. This extension will benefit travellers between Tumakuru and Bengaluru and residents in nearby areas like Nelamangala, Makali, and Madanayakanahalli; moreover, traffic congestion on Tumakuru Road is expected to decrease. The Madavara station will be positioned after Manjunath Nagar and Jindal stations, all of which are now complete. This project, which began in 2017, faced delays due to land acquisition issues but saw most of the construction completed in 2023. Technical work has since progressed, with trial runs now in progress.

Disruptions in Green line

As part of the ongoing signalling tests for the Green Line extension, there will be adjustments to train timing and operations on specific days. Train services between Peenya Industry and Nagasandra Metro Stations will be suspended on August 20, 23, and 30, as well as September 6 and 11, for the entire day. On August 24, the last train service from Nagasandra to Peenya Industry Metro Stations will be at 10 pm, rather than the usual 11:05 pm and on August 25, the first service from Nagasandra will start at 7 am instead of 5 am. For the Peenya Industry to Silk Institute Metro Stations route, the last train service on August 24 will be at 11:12 pm and on August 25, the first train service will commence at 5 am. There will be no changes to Metro services on the Purple Line during this period, according to BMRCL officials.

> **Green Line Metro service timings have been adjusted for Aug 20, 23, 30 & Sept 6 & 11 for entire day**

19 fall ill in B'luru hostel after inhaling 'rat poison'

Karnataka Police lodged an FIR on Monday against the hostel management staff for negligently spraying rodent repellent on the premises, resulting in the hospitalisation of 19 students. Of them, three students—Jayan Varghese, Dilish, and Jo Mon—required ICU care and are currently under observation.

The incident took place at the Adarsha College of Nursing near Amma Ashram in Jnanabharathi police station limits on Sunday. The affected students were rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment by their peers, with assistance from the general public.

According to the police, during the inquiry, it was discovered that the hostel management had hired a private contractor to spray rat poison in the cellar of the hospital, where the generator is installed. "Rat Axe, a rodent repellent, was sprayed on the ground-floor generator of the student hostel. After this, the students in the hostel inhaled the substance, leading to respiratory issues. A total of 19 students fell ill, and they were immediately taken to nearby hospitals by other hostel students, staff, and members of the public for treatment," Deputy Commissioner of Police S Girish stated.

Following a complaint by one of the students, Noel, the police have registered a case under Section 286 of the Indian Penal Code (negligent conduct with respect to a poisonous substance) against the hostel management and the contractor, Manje Gowda, for negligence in handling a hazardous substance and causing a public health hazard. Further investigation is still in progress.

—Agencies

No land for working women's hostels on BU

BU has unoccupied hostel rooms, & claims this project would not help its students

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Bangalore University (BU) has informed the University Grants Commission (UGC) that it is unable to provide land for the 'Sakhi Nivas' project, which is intended to ensure safety and security for working women. Despite having 1,210 acres of land in the Jnanabharathi campus, 236 acres are encroached upon. Additionally, 275.40 acres have been allocated to various educational institutions by the university, and 12 acres are currently under dispute. As a result, BU is effectively utilising only 667 acres of land. Given this situation, the university does not have any land available to offer to other educational institutions or government projects.

In light of this, BU discussed the Central Government's proposal in a recent syndicate meeting. However, since the university had already decided not to allocate land for any government or private projects, including 'Sakhi Nivas,' it has communicated to the UGC that providing land is not possible.

An official said, "The UGC had requested universities across the country to provide details of available land for this project. However, BU, with its existing hostels, finds no benefit for students in the proposed project. Additionally, the newly established hostel for students from the northeastern regions remains underutilised."

BU vice-chancellor Dr SM Jayakar said, "The UGC had written to us requesting two acres of land for the 'Sakhi Nivas' project. However, the land available with us will be required for the university's future expansion. Moreover, this project does not benefit our campus students in any way. Therefore, we have informed them that it is not possible to provide the land."

Despite having 1,210 acres of land, BU utilises only 667 acres, the rest is occupied for various purposes

> **The UGC had written to us requesting two acres of land for the 'Sakhi Nivas' project. But, the land available with us will be needed for the university's future expansion**
>
> –SM Jayakar, BU V-C

It may be noted that in January this year, UGC Secretary Manish Yadav communicated to universities that India's progress in STEM education now includes an impressive 43% representation of women graduates. Additionally, the labour force participation of women has risen from 23.3% to 37%.

"A significant factor driving women and girls from rural areas to relocate to Tier-1 and metro cities is the availability of better educational and employment opportunities. However, there is a pressing need for safe and affordable accommodation for them. Addressing this challenge, the Sakhi Niwas (Working Women's Hostel), a part of the Umbrella scheme of Mission Shakti, stands as a beacon of hope. It provides secure lodging, meals, and daycare facilities for their children wherever feasible. This initiative operates at a nominal cost, catering to the needs of working women in urban, semi-urban, and rural areas where employment opportunities exist. However, the Sakhi Niwas component currently only supports rental models for working women's hostels. Hence, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has proposed that universities identify suitable land or built-up space within their campuses for establishing a Working Women's Hostel (WWH). MWCD is willing to cover the construction and/or management costs for running the facility. The ministry has also requested a list of 10-15 identified spaces within the next 10 days. Higher educational institutions have been urged to take note of this and submit their proposals to the MWCD," the Prime Minister had said in a letter.

Student kidnapped, extorted

A student from St. Joseph's University, identified as Jeevan Jain, has alleged that he was kidnapped, extorted, and harrassed by a group of people. The Kengeri police have registered an FIR against nine individuals in connection with the case.

Jeevan is said to have borrowed three lakh rupees from Ayush Srinivas last year for a music event. Despite repaying the amount, Jeevan alleges that Srinivas and eight others continued to harrass him for more money, forcing him into a betting trap and demanding an additional Rs 10 lakh. The situation escalated when Jeevan was allegedly kidnapped, stripped, and videotaped by the group. The accused threatened to make the compromising video viral if he did not meet their demands.

Jeevan's father was forced into paying seven lakh rupees in cash. The accused also forced Jeevan to pawn his Rolex watch.

Fatal end to love triangle

A man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his home with multiple stab wounds. The victim, identified as 35-year-old Rajesh Kumar, was married and had two children. He is said to have been involved with a colleague.

The situation escalated when Rajesh's wife, Priya, discovered the affair. Confronted by her, Rajesh promised to end the relationship, but tensions within the family continued to rise. The situation took a tragic turn when the mistress, feeling betrayed, confronted Rajesh at his home. A heated argument ensued, leading to the fatal stabbing by the mistress. The police arrested the suspect, who confessed to the crime during interrogation.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Forest department offers treks to explore Kappatagudda

To participate in treks, people must register with the forest dept and pay small fee for experienced guide

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Kappatagudda, located near Gadag, is renowned for its diverse flora and fauna, making it a popular destination for trekkers. The hill also features numerous windmills, adding to its distinctive landscape. The Forest Department is currently offering guided treks to Kappatagudda, which will be available until September. Many tourists visit the hill daily to experience its natural splendor. After visiting the Kapata Malleshwara temple, they make their way to the hilltop. The trekking experience is enhanced by introducing visitors to the scenic beauty of Kappatagudda and exploring its uncharted areas.

The Forest Department initiated the trekking program at Kapata Gudda on July 5, 2023, with a grand opening ceremony. Due to an increasing number of tourists visiting Kappata Gudda, the Forest Department has organised this program to cater to the growing demand. Two trekking routes, spanning four kilometres and six kilometres, have been identified, both starting at the base of the hill and culminating at the Kapata Malleshwara temple. These routes traverse through the Doni and Kadakola villages, providing stunning views of the surrounding landscape.

A minimum of 20 people per group is required for the guided tours

To participate in the guided treks, individuals must register in advance with the Forest Department and pay a small fee, which covers the services of an experienced guide and a certificate of completion. Each trek, guided by knowledgeable guides, will take approximately three hours to complete. During the journey, participants may even have the opportunity to spot a few wild animals.

A minimum group of 20 people is required for the guided tours. The trek will commence at 6.30 am from Doni and Kadakola villages and will conclude at the Kadakola Forest, where arrangements have been made for trekkers to rest and refresh. Forest Department officials have pointed out that the trekking program will offer a unique and unforgettable experience for the tourists.

Prosecution in MUDA 'scam': HC stalls action on CM till Aug 29

Proceedings pending, trial court shall defer its proceedings till the next date of hearing: HC

The Karnataka High Court on Monday asked the trial court concerned not to take any precipitative action against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah based on the Governor's sanction in Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) 'scam', till the next date of hearing before the HC.

A bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna posted the plea for hearing on August 29 which was filed by CM challenging the sanction for his prosecution by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in the alleged MUDA land allotment scam.

In its order, the bench stated, "It was argued that the proceedings before the trial court are up for orders on whether a sanction should be granted to prosecute the CM. Any order permitting action to proceed further against the CM would frustrate the proceedings before this court. Since the proceedings are pending before this court, the trial court shall defer its proceedings till the next date of hearing. There shall be no precipitative action qua these complaints."

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Siddaramaiah, argued that the Governor didn't give a single reason on merits why the sanction ought to be given for the prosecution of the Chief Minister. Singhvi said that the Governor is bound by a Cabinet decision in such cases; however, he issued sanction in a short two-page order without considering the merits of the case.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Governor, submitted that in such cases, there only needs to be an apprehension or suspicion of reasonable bias by the Cabinet in favour of the minister against whom sanction is sought.

—ANI

Congress leaders and workers protest against the Governor's sanction for the prosecution of CM Siddaramaiah, in Bengaluru on Monday and BJP leaders protest against the CM (below)

Reckless, says CM Siddaramaiah on BJP's demand for his resignation

CM Siddaramaiah lashed out at the BJP for asking him to emulate former CM BS Yediyurappa, who resigned from his post following the consent to prosecute him by late Governor Hansraj Bharadwaj in 2011. He also called the demand "reckless." Taking to Facebook on Monday, CM Siddaramaiah stated, "Senior BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition in Assembly R Ashoka has once again displayed his ignorance by asking, "Didn't BS Yediyurappa tender his resignation from the CM's post when Governor Hansraj Bhardwaj granted permission for prosecution? Why isn't CM Siddaramaiah resigning now?" "Before making such reckless statements, please verify the facts. Governor Hansraj Bhardwaj granted permission for prosecution in connection with the Rachenahalli de-notification scandal on January 21, 2011. The petitioners had provided strong evidence in the form of a 1,600-page document. Yet Yediyurappa did not resign from his CM position at that time. Ashok, weren't you the one who questioned why Yediyurappa should resign back then? How can you now ask for my resignation?" he questioned. —IANS

Authorities trap homebuyers in a legal loop

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The Registrar of Cooperative Societies has replied to a homebuyers letter stating that it has nothing to do with the transfer of common area at a residential apartment complex to the homebuyers by the builder. This particular response from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies' is suggesting that the state government is not committed to enabling the Real Estate Regulatory Authority-Karnataka (RERA) to effectively function for the benefit of home buyers.

It may be recalled that homebuyers Dhananjay Padmanabhachar and Commander Surendra (Veteran) wrote to the Karnataka Governor on July 19, complaining that the government has not issued any directions to the builders under Section 17 of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority—Karnataka Act, 2017, to transfer the common area at residential apartment complexes to the flat owners. The Governor's Office had then forwarded the complaint to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, advising them to look into the matter.

However, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies has advised the complainants to approach RERA, or Urban Development Department, by submitting separate applications as the issue does not come under the jurisdiction of cooperative societies. Moreover, the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, states the Registrar of Cooperative Societies as the competent authority as defined in the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, 1959.

Meanwhile, Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Sanchalak, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum, said that as per Section 3 of the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act 1972, the competent authority is the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, but unfortunately, the state government has failed to issue Gazette notifications or government orders declaring the above-mentioned body as competent authority since 1972, when the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act came into existence. "We have reached out to all the government departments, including housing, urban development, and revenue departments, to give us suitable directions so that the apartment association gets competent authority, which has been pending for decades. The government of Karnataka declared in February that they were planning to come up with a new Apartment Ownership Act to resolve the issue. However, there are no updates from the state government on the proposed act even after six months," said Padmanabhachar. He further added that cases are piling up in the RERA and in the courts on this particular matter.

Complainants are advised to approach RERA as this issue doesn't fall under their jurisdiction

Price hike: Airfares climb up to 25% for Diwali, Onam

Airfares are heading northwards for the festival season, with the average one-way ticket price on key domestic routes being 10-15 per cent more for Diwali and 20-25 per cent higher for certain flights to Kerala cities for Onam, according to an analysis.

An analysis done by travel portal ixigo for PTI showed that the average one-way economy class fare for non-stop flights on Delhi-Chennai route during October 30-November 5 period is 25% higher at Rs 7,618. This is in comparison to the fare during November 10-16 period last year. For the given comparison period, the ticket price is 21% more at Rs 5,162 on the Mumbai-Hyderabad route and 19% higher at Rs 5,999 and at Rs 4,930 on Delhi-Goa and Delhi-Ahmedabad routes, respectively. On certain other routes, fares are higher in the range of 1-16%.

On the other hand, fares have also dropped in the range of 1-27% on certain routes for the given comparison period. Ticket prices for Mumbai-Ahmedabad flight has declined by 27% to Rs 2,508, and by 25% to Rs 4,890 for Mumbai-Udaipur flight. For Bengaluru-Hyderabad flight, the fare has dropped by 23 per cent to Rs 3,383 and by 21 per cent to Rs 7,826 for Mumbai-Jammu flight, the analysis showed.

Also, an analysis of airfare trends on select routes for the upcoming festival in Kerala showed that prices have increased in the range of 1-25% on certain routes. At the same time, ticket prices have fallen around 6-35% on some routes.

The figures are average for one-way fare for non-stop flights for departure during the September 6-15 period this year compared to August 20-29, 2023 period when Onam was celebrated.

A 30 per cent rise in fare to Rs 4,102 has been registered for Hyderabad-Thiruvananthapuram flight for the given comparison period. A similar quantum of increase is there for Mumbai-Calicut flight to Rs 4,448. "Travel demand for Onam festivities has surged this year, with flight bookings and searches for travel to Kerala in the second week of September doubling compared to last year. Average airfares to key cities like Cochin, Calicut, and Thiruvananthapuram have risen by 20-25% year-on-year," ixigo Group Co-CEO Rajnish Kumar said.

There have been persisting concerns over high airfares, especially during peak and festival seasons. Last month, the Civil Aviation Ministry told Rajya Sabha that airlines have been advised to self-regulate as well as sensitised to exercise moderation in the pricing of air tickets.

—PTI

Early warning systems not working fine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Silt removal

Proper maintenance of roadside and stormwater drains requires silt to be cleared during the summer months. However, the process often only begins during the rainy season, resembling an 'emergency drill'. Once the rains have passed, the BBMP administration typically neglects rain-related issues until the next problem arises. The city allocates 36 crore annually for the upkeep of its 860-km stormwater drain network. Contractors are tasked with removing silt, vegetation, and debris from 491 km of this network. Monitoring of the work is inadequate and the fate of the removed silt is often unclear. Some citizens reported that silt left on the banks washes back into the drains in even light rain.

Sources said that had the silt been removed according to contractual agreements, conditions in the 491 km of stormwater drains would be markedly improved. However, the drains are not maintained as stipulated, and additional issues arise from residents discarding waste such as plastic bags, thermocol, old clothes, pillows, and mattresses into the drains. In some cases, buildings constructed over the drains have altered the natural course of water.

784 encroachments not cleared

Following the severe rain and stormwater drain overflows that led to disasters in 2016-17 and 2017-18, the government responded by initiating a campaign to remove encroachments on stormwater drains and their designated areas. This operation failed to create an effective system for managing rain-related disasters. The removal efforts faced significant obstacles, including interference from influential individuals whose buildings obstructed the process. Over time, the campaign lost momentum and did not achieve lasting results. Currently, 784 encroachments on stormwater drains within the BBMP's jurisdiction remain unresolved, with 305 in the Mahadevapura zone, 124 in

Dasarahalli, 86 in Bommanahalli, 79 in Yelahanka, and 103 in the East zone.

Sensors not helping

Around 74 areas have been identified as sensitive and highly sensitive to potential flooding during heavy rainfall. To manage this risk, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSNDMC) has installed 105 sensors across various points to monitor water flow levels in stormwater drains. Despite these technological measures, the city still lacks effective early warning systems during heavy rains. Consequently, stormwater drains frequently overflow.

BS Prahlad, Chief Engineer, BBMP, said, "The operation to remove silt from stormwater drains is ongoing. Monitoring is being conducted to ensure that no flood-like situations arise anywhere, and precautions are being taken. Permanent solutions are being implemented in all 74 sensitive and highly sensitive areas."

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath held a meeting of officials on Monday over this issue. "I have directed officials to immediately inspect and rectify locations where rainwater stagnates and blockages occur. . Officials were instructed to list these locations and promptly address the issues. For such areas, officials should get the soil, waste, and debris removed. Additionally, at locations where water stagnates on roads, proper side drains should be maintained to facilitate water flow. Cleanliness must be maintained around gratings. Officials are expected to personally inspect the sites and conduct cleanliness operations."

Network of Rajakaluves

The Rajakaluves across various zones in the city span a total length of approximately 859.90 km. Among these, the Mahadevapura zone has the most extensive network, stretching over 199.04 km. Following closely is the RR Nagar zone, with a length of 140.19 km, and Bommanahalli, which covers 112 km. Other significant zones include Yelahanka with 98.18 kilometers, the Koramangala Valley with 71.30 km, the East zone with 73.71 km, the West zone with 55.24 km, the South zone with 53.22 km, and Dasarahalli with 56.99 km. In terms of flood-prone areas, the city has several zones identified as either highly sensitive or sensitive. A total of 25 areas are classified as highly sensitive, with the Yelahanka zone accounting for eight of these areas.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Lakshmi Raja Kodanda Ram R/a at No 98/16, 1st Floor, 6th Main, 3rd Cross, 4th Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru-560070. I have changed my name to, Lakshmi Prasad Belur Keshava Prasad. Vide Affidavit Dated on 19/08/2024. Sworn Before Notary S N Madhu Bengaluru

I, Ganesh Vudayagiri, aged 40 Yrs, S/o Vudayagiri Krishnappa, residing at #No.G-7, Prabhavathi Shadow Apt, BTS Layout, Arekere, Bangalore -76, intend to change my name from Ganesh V to Ganesh Vudayagiri and also my father name from Krishnappa V to Vudayagiri Krishnappa for all my future documents, vide affidavit dated 19-08-2024 Sworn before Notary Puttaraju Bangalore.

I, Rashmi Sivadass W/o Prasoon Pandey, R/o A-206, GR Signature, Pattandur Agrahara Main Road, Whitefield , Bengaluru-560066 have changed my old names S Rashmi & Rashmi S to Rashmi Sivadass for all future purposes as per affidavit dated 18/03/2023 sworn before Notary Indira S.S.

I, Jyoti Ravi Rao W/o, Ravi Neelkantrao Bangalore R/o Mahaveer Seasons, No 105 1 Flr D Blk, 24 Main Somsundar Pallya, HSR Layout Bangalore have changed my name to Jyoti for all purposes.

I, JABEER AHMED DASTAGIR, R/a 53,1st Main,1st Cross, Hebbal, Bangalore-24. I have changed my name to JABEER AHMED vide affidavit dated 19/08/2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

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KASHI AYODHYA/ BADRINATH* KEDARNATH*/21/14* DAYS
Sept: 5, 12*,20, 26, 27* Oct: 3*, 4, 11*, 14, 21*

AGRA MATHURA JAIPUR NEW DELHI 11 DAYS Oct: 11

KASHI NAIMISHARANYA CHITRAKOOT 14 DAYS
Sept: 25, Oct: 2, 16, 30 Nov: 13, 27

CHAR DHAM YATRA 19 DAYS
Sept: 10, 13, 17, 20, 24 Oct: 4, 9, 12

KASHI AYODHYA PRAYAG GAYA/HARIDWAR* 11/16* DAYS
Sept: 5, 13*, 20, 20*, 26, 27* Oct: 4, 4*, 11*, 18*, 24, 25*

SINGAPORE MALAYSIA/THAILAND* 7/11* DAYS Sept: 11, 25

Creepy vibe lurking in city's parks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This incident happened in June around 3 o'clock while she was walking. "Someone around 45 years old came from behind and hugged me, but I raised my voice and chased them away. Even though there is a helpline, at that moment, our only intention is to escape. The government should take strict action and increase security. If our parents find out, they will either tell us to come back home or insist on accompanying us. But how long can they do that? Some parents might get scared and restrict their daughters from going out alone," a woman told BM.

The woman's words resonate with many in Bengaluru, a city that attracts a large number of women from different parts of the country for work, education, and other pursuits.

In another disturbing incident at Kittur Rani Chennamma Park, a woman was assaulted around 3 pm in June. The woman had gone to the same park for a walk when she was followed by a man till her hostel. This incident has left her shaken. The woman shared, "I used to go for walks with a group of 3 to 4 people, and we all noticed someone following us. One day, I went for a walk alone, and that man followed me all the way to my PG. There are no proper streetlights, and if there were, we would at least feel more confident walking. In such situations, we don't know who to confide in. Even if we tell the PG owners, they just tell us to take care of ourselves. If we share it with friends, they can only listen, but what else can they do?"

She also said there was a shop earlier where men would gather, sing, taunt, and whistle at the women who walked by.

These incidents are not isolated.

Over the past few months, there has been a noticeable increase in reports of harassment in various parts of the city, including Cubbon Park and other popular public spaces. President of the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association S Umesh shared, " I've received numerous calls from people recounting their experiences with similar incidents. Many are too afraid to file a case, fearing the impact on their future. These aren't isolated events—many are reaching out for help whenever something like this happens."

Umesh recently moved to a house near Ranipuram Park and expressed concerns about the lack of proper security, lighting, and CCTV in the area. He called on the government to revert to the previous park hours, from 5 am to 11 am and from 4 pm to 8 pm, to enhance safety.

While the city has helplines and safety apps, the immediate reaction in a crisis is often driven by fear and the instinct to escape, as the victim from Kittur Rani Chennamma Park pointed out. DCP Farooq Pasha of Wilson Garden told BM, " We will investigate this matter, ensure strict protocols are implemented, and increase police patrols in the area." Citizens suggest increasing police patrols, installing more CCTV cameras, creating awareness about the importance of bystander intervention, and imposing stricter penalties.

Joint Director of Horticulture department M Jagdesh remarked, "Previously, there were bushes in the parks where people could easily hide, but we've removed those and created a 6 km walking path for visitors. We've cleared unwanted bushes and low-hanging trees and requested police officials to address such incidents if they occur. We have also requested the Cubbon Park Walk Association to report any such incidents if they encounter them during their walks. We've also deployed 20 security guards to patrol the area, and there is 24/7 CCTV surveillance in place."

HEALTH TIP: Apart from providing immune-strengthening nutrients, fruit and vegetables are rich in fibre – which feeds friendly gut bacteria

Probiotic yogurts and drinks cut the risk of upper respiratory tract infections

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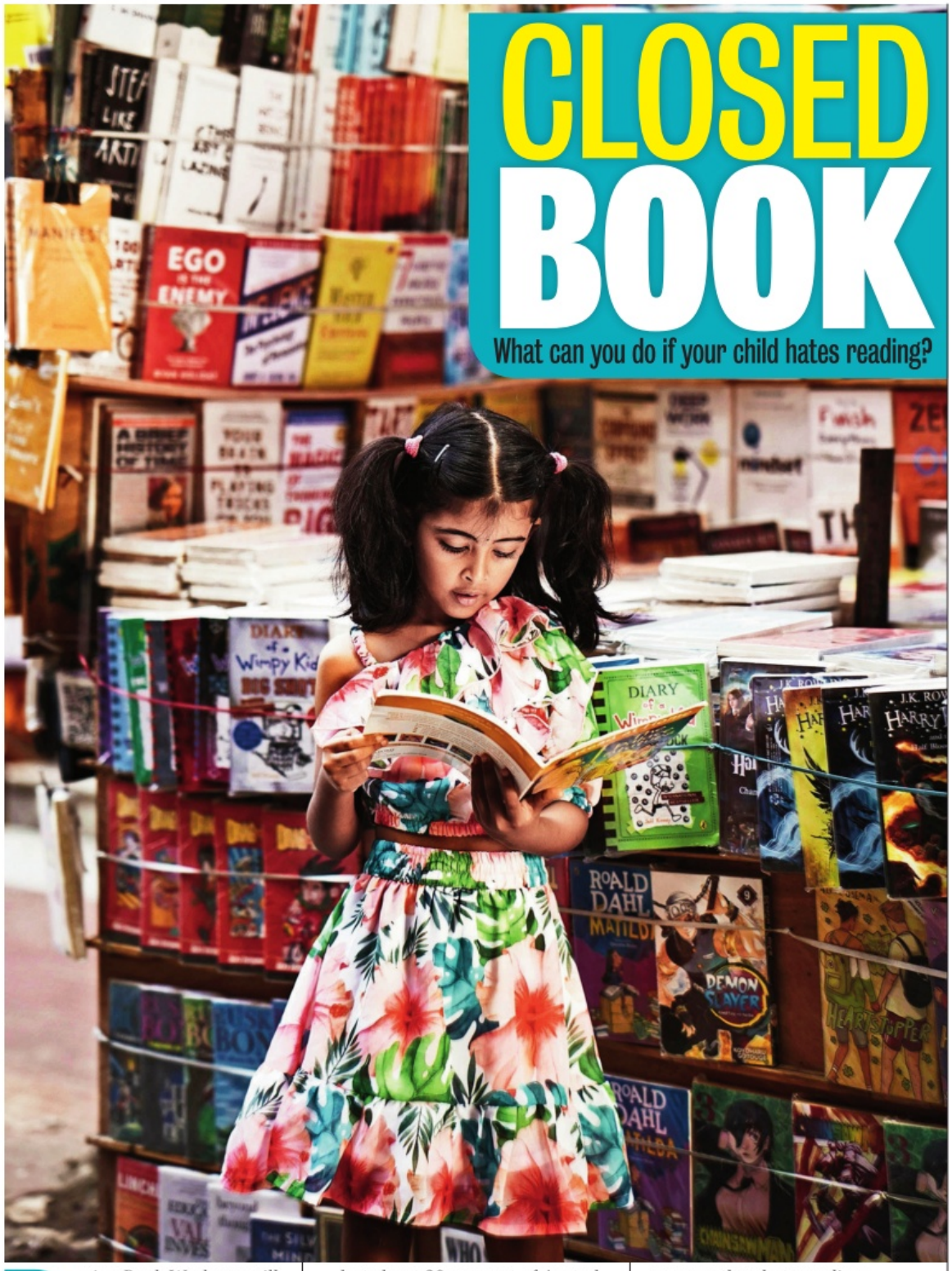
CLOSED BOOK

What can you do if your child hates reading?



During Book Week, we will see countless photos on social media of happy kids dressed as characters from their favourite books, while schools hold daily events celebrating the joy of reading.

It's a fun time for many children, who relish the chance to dress up as Hermione from Harry Potter or Dog Man and talk about books with their friends and teachers.

But what if your child doesn't like reading?

It's a growing challenge in many parts of the world. A 2023 survey found more than 50 per cent of eight- to 18-year-olds in the United Kingdom do not enjoy reading in their spare time. In the United States, only 14 per cent of 13-year-old students report reading for fun almost every day.

In Australia, it's slightly better – but about 30 per cent of Australian children aged five to 14 say they do not read for pleasure.

If you have a child who's reluctant to read, what can you do? A good first step is to find out why.

Why is it important for kids to enjoy reading – or at least not hate it?

It might be tempting to give a kid a "pass" if they don't like reading, but this will not help them in the long term. Most jobs rely on reading and writing – even those that are more practical. For examples, trades involve lots of forms, instructions and certification.

Once a child has been taught to read, they need to practice to get good at it – or at least good enough. This is why liking reading, or at least not hating it, is important. It gets children to practice.

What's the reason?

There are several reasons a child may say they hate reading:

1) they might not be as good at reading as other kids in the class, so they form the impression – from their own observations or feedback from others – they are not good at reading
2) this may make them worry or even fear reading, particularly in front of other people
3) so they avoid reading simply to stop feeling bad.

But even if a child has no problems with reading, they still may not like it.

Perhaps they have other interests (for example, computing, sport or music). Or they can't see the point of reading ("what does it do for me?").

How can you work out the root cause?

A good place to start is to think about what your child says about reading, or what they have said in the past.

Is there a chance they are struggling with reading at school? Do they think they are "bad" at it? Does reading make them feel worried or "switched off"? Do they try to actively avoid reading? Do they find it hard to find something to read that interests them?

If nothing comes into mind, you could try to talk to your child – in a gentle way – to see if any of these things are an issue for them. If you are worried this might end up in an argument, or with them saying "I don't know, I just hate it", ask their teacher.

Their teacher should know where your child sits within the class in terms of their reading ability and feelings about reading, and if they try to avoid reading for some reason.

A second opinion?

If you need another opinion, you may wish to take your child to a reading specialist. Before you book a session, ask if they can assess your child's confidence, engagement and emotions around reading as well as their skills. These all play a role in how well your child reads and how much they enjoy reading.

Also make sure the specialist can provide recommendations about next steps based on the results, rather than give you a result with no further action.

What can you do at home?

First, help your child find books or articles on topics that genuinely interest them. Perhaps take them to the local library or bookshop so they can choose their own book. Or search through your local street libraries together on a walk. Show an interest in their interests.

Second, help your child find a meaningful goal for their reading. Are they determined to read all the books in a series? Or do they have more practical goals ("I need to learn how to fix my bike")? Show an interest in how they are tracking towards their goal.

Third, support your child's reading self-efficacy, which is their perception they can meet their reading goals. Try to avoid showing disappointment if their progress is slow. Take an interest in what they are learning through their reading.

A final consideration

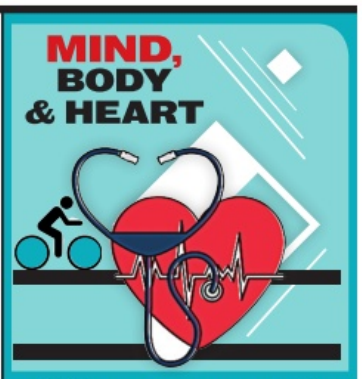
At some point, you might find your child is discouraged because they have chosen a text that is too easy (which is boring) or too hard (which is demoralising).

In the first case, you can say their reading is "far too good for this book, so let's find something more interesting tomorrow".

In the second case, you can offer to help them read every second page, or the bits they feel they cannot manage. That way you can get through the book together.

In time, you will both learn how to find texts that are not too easy and not too hard.

(By Genevieve McArthur, Australian Catholic University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Sleep & memories

Memory storage
While sleep is known to help with forming and storing memories during the day, a new study has found answers to how this continues to happen over one's lifetime without running out of neurons or brain cells.

Neurons' reset
Researchers found that at certain times during deep sleep, certain parts of the hippocampus -- one of the brain regions involved in learning new things and forming memories -- go silent, allowing those neurons to 'reset'.

Reuse mechanism
"This mechanism could allow the brain to reuse the same resources, the same neurons, for new learning the next day," said Azahara Oliva, an assistant professor of neurobiology and behaviour at Cornell University, US, and corresponding author of the study published in the journal Science.

Memory consolidation
While we sleep, the brain cells go over everything we learn or experience during the day by repeating the patterns that were activated the first time, thereby helping with how memories are stored. The process is called 'memory consolidation', following which the memories are then stored in a large area in the brain called the cortex. Both the hippocampus and the cortex play a role in memory, with the hippocampus transferring temporary or 'short-term' information to the cortex to form permanent or 'long-term' memories.

Hippocampus
The researchers said that the hippocampus is divided into three regions, two of which are well-known to help form memories related to time and space. The third, they said, is involved in silencing and resetting parts of the hippocampus during sleep, which this study found.

PTI

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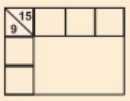
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

What has 4 letters, sometimes 9 letters, can also have 7 letters, but never has 5 letters?

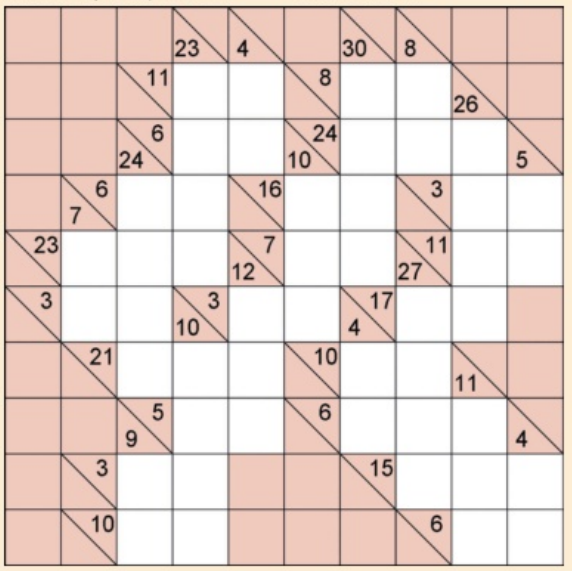
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

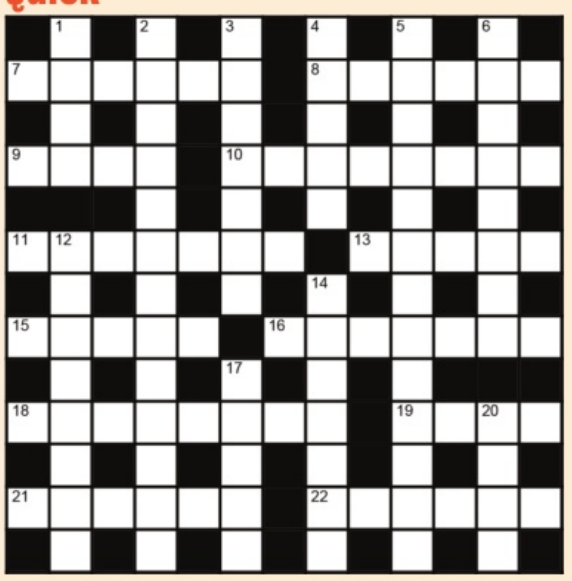


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Precede in time (6)
8 Military command (2,4)
9 Abandoned (4)
10 Ball from a spin bowler (3-5)
11 Astounded or stupefied (7)
13 Biblical monarchy (5)
15 Smell something ___: suspect foul play? (5)
16 Together; not severally? (7)
18 Expert marksman? (4,4)
19 Multiplex at Garuda Mall (4)
21 Rattled (6)
22 A large, Indian antelope (6)

DOWN

1 Flexible water pipe (4)
2 Concealed or refrained from mentioning? (4,2,3,4)
3 Recovered from? (3,4)
4 Blunder (5)
5 Shameful (13)
6 Former capital of Turkey (8)
12 Having three feet (8)
14 Foreshadow (7)
17 Outhouses (5)
20 Egg shaped (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS N

EJNNJA NR FADNJ URA HRCATJWU IBK XIGJ BR VCEWDO, NXIB NR FADNJ URA NXJ VCEWDO IBK XIGJ BR TJWU.

Linemaro

I'd marry your cat just to get in the family

Mindchow

It is not a lack of love, but lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages

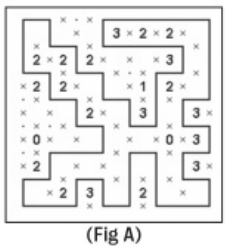
Joke of the day

The trouble in corporate America is that too many people with too much power live in a box (their home), then travel the same road every day to another box (their office).

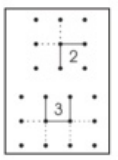
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



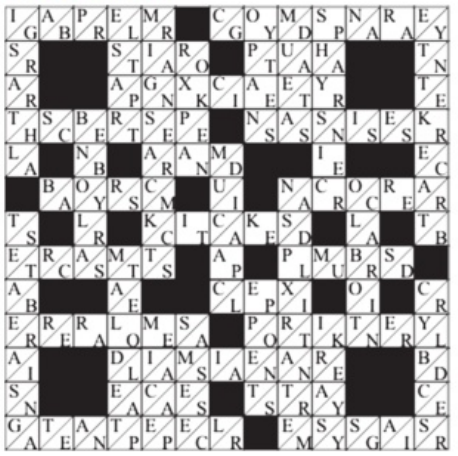
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

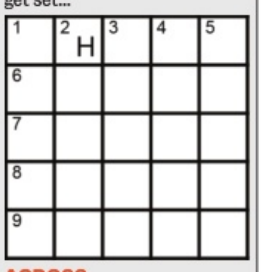
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Sad Sh; 6 Tenon; 7 I mica; 8 Marie; 9 Pleas

DOWN

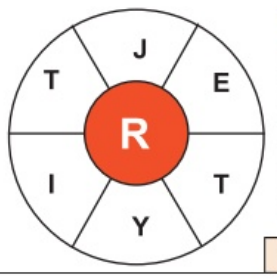
1 Larns; 2 I home; 3 Amnia; 4 Caped; 5 Sites

Mensapuzzle

On the right is an alphametic, a tribute to the worlds best math/science writer. Each letter stands for a positive number from 0 to 9. If A = 3, G = 8, N = 4 and R = 7, can you fill in the remaining numbers? (Remember, zero cannot start a word)

MARTIN
+GARDNER
MASTERS

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		5				9		
	2	9				3	1	
	3		5		4		8	
3			9	5	2			6
			7		1			
7			8	3	6			1
	4		2		7		5	
	5	7				1	4	
		6				7		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

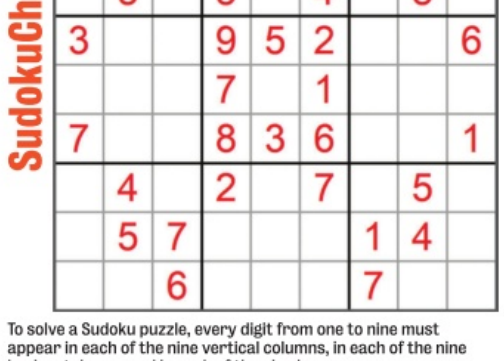
Easy = 4
3 3 6 8

Medium = 12
2 2 6 6

Hard = 18
2 7 7 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



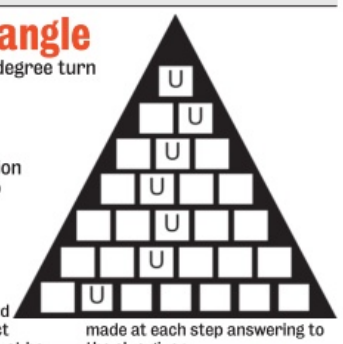
Differences: 1. Golf club is missing. 2. Glasses are missing. 3. Collar is different. 4. Tree is added. 5. Leg is moved. 6. Hair is different.

Riddler

A hole leading in, a hole leading out, I connect to a cavern that is slimy all throughout. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Describing a 180 degree turn
2 Xi preceder
3 Cashew, for one
4 Food fish
5 Ill-fed
6 Crunchy confection
7 Small armed ship

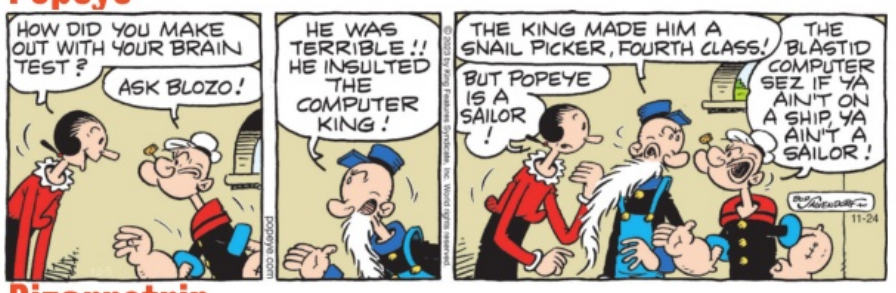


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


HOW DID YOU MAKE OUT WITH YOUR BRAIN TEST ?
ASK BLOZO!
HE WAS TERRIBLE !! HE INSULTED THE COMPUTER KING !
THE KING MADE HIM A SNAIL PICKER, FOURTH CLASS!
BUT POPEYE IS A SAILOR !
THE BLASTID COMPUTER SEZ IF YA AIN'T ON A SHIP, YA AIN'T A SAILOR !
11-24

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

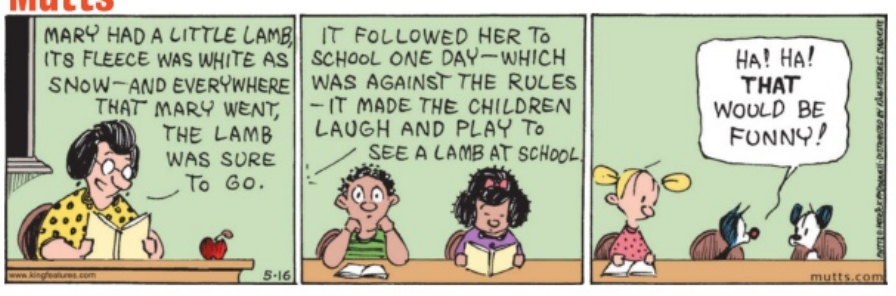
Hart of the city

I'M SURE YOU'VE ALL HEARD THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD IS DEFUNDING THE THEATER. NOW WE'RE BANKRUPT.
SO WE GOTTA PERFORM THE HECK OUTTA THIS PLAY TO REMIND THE BOARD THAT DRAMA IS WORTH PAYING FOR!
HOW ARE WE GONNA DO THAT?
WITH THIS.
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MUSICAL
STOLEN FROM THE INTERNET

Crankshaft

OF COURSE WE WANT TO HOLD THE 'STARBUCK JONES III' MOVIE HERE!
WHEN DOES IT DROP?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK...
WHY AM I GETTING THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT IT'S NOT FUNNY AT ALL?
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts


MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB, ITS FLEECE WAS WHITE AS SNOW—AND EVERYWHERE THAT MARY WENT, THE LAMB WAS SURE TO GO.
IT FOLLOWED HER TO SCHOOL ONE DAY—WHICH WAS AGAINST THE RULES —IT MADE THE CHILDREN LAUGH AND PLAY TO SEE A LAMB AT SCHOOL
HA! HA! THAT WOULD BE FUNNY!
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be busy with kids' academics and you may plan for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news in terms of a kid. You may plan for higher studies or getting a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soulmates.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be escaped from reality, you may not be able to take your responsibilities. Your investments may give you some loss. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature. Elders' health may upset you. You may plan to reconstruct your house, it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may help needy people, it may increase your social respect. You may also put your hundred percent effort in your work, resulting in early completion. You may hear some good news from your siblings. Too much work may tire you, you are advised to avoid stress today, otherwise stress can affect both your professional and personal life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be busy with family social and social events. You may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your image among your relatives and friends. You will spend money in buying some artefacts which will improve your social status. You may hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today disputes with the siblings may settle down, it may boost your relationship with your siblings. Your vital force seems to be good, it may help you complete a difficult project easily. You may expand your network after a short work related trip. You may also help some needy person, and it may increase your social status.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today some dissatisfaction may come into your mind, you may feel lazy and dull, it affects your current speed of the project or work in terms of delay. Love birds are advised to avoid any important decisions in terms of marriage. Job seekers may get disappointments in terms of interviews. You will waste your precious time on worthless tasks.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel dull, your focus may be lost. You may hypothetically take some decision, which may be seen beyond reality. Your expectations may be very high and because of your impatience you will not be able to fulfill your expectations, and you may be upset. You are advised to be careful in adventure tours and rash driving. But by afternoon your profits may increase.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may likely control your internal weakness after analys- ing yourself. You may be confident. You may fight against addictions of any stuff. Singles are likely to find their good match. Love birds will now have clarity in their relationships. You may expect some opportunities for overseas travel. Students will hear good news in terms of academics.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may feel better, situations may be under control. Your network may help you in the work front. You may plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to increase domestic harmony and love life. With the help of creativity, you may bring some artefacts or creative stuff for the family. You may also plan for watching movies or go for outing with friends or family.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may get tired due to overworking. It may make you lazy and careless, you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning for adventure tours, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may have back ache, nervous system, lever related issues and skin issues.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today your creativity may be high, you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some stuff to renovate your house or office which may increase social status. You will have harmony with your spouse. Disputes with friends, co-workers and partners may settle down. You may hear good news in terms of litigations.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today your creativity may be high, you may attend some creative event. Your money which was stuck, may recover now. Jobseekers are advised to update their knowledge with the latest one. Students are advised to put some more effort in there academics.

KIDZONE

Advika Bharath, 5 years, DPS School

Kaveri Sriram, 10 years, Valistus International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
What 4
Sometimes 9
Can also 7
Never 5
Answer in every sentence

RIDDLER
A nose

FAST FIVE

L	E	A	P	S
R	I	M	A	E
A	M	I	C	I
N	O	N	E	T
S	H	A	D	S

BULL'S EYE
JITTERY, ritе, tier, tire, trite, tyre

STRIKE OUT

G	A	P	E	R	C	O	M	P	A	R	E			
R		T	A	O		P	A	H		N				
A		A	N	X	I	E	T	Y		T				
T	S	E	T	S		N	A	S	S	E	R			
A		B	A	N	D		I			E				
B	O	S	C		U		A	C	C	R	A			
S		K	I	C	K	S		A		T				
T	R	A	M	S		A	P	U	B	S				
A		A		L	E	I		I		R				
R	E	A	L	M	S		O	R	K	N	E	Y		
I		L	A	M	I	N	A	E		D				
N		E	C	E		S	T	Y		E				
G	E	N	T	E	E	L		E	S	S	A	R		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
937204
+837546?
9312671

QUOTE UNCODE
Better to write for yourself and have no public, than to write for the public and have no self.

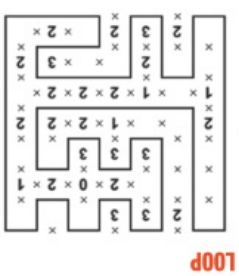
SUDOKU

8	7	5	1	2	3	9	6	4
4	2	9	6	7	8	3	1	5
6	3	1	5	9	4	2	8	7
3	1	8	9	5	2	4	7	6
7	9	4	8	3	6	5	2	1
5	6	2	7	4	1	8	9	3
1	4	3	2	8	7	6	5	9
2	5	7	3	6	9	1	4	8
9	8	6	4	1	5	7	3	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Nu, Nut, Tuna, Gaunt, Nougat, Gunboat.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 3 + 6 − 8 = 4
Medium
2 + 6 + 6 − 2 = 12
Hard
6 + 7 − 2 + 7 = 18

LOOP



KAKURO

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Photo op— Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh opened up about her passion for photography on World Photography Day. Fatima revealed that she also enjoys capturing the world through her camera as photography allows her to see the world in a new light

WORK ETHIC FAN

Dia Mirza reveals she had always wanted to work with Vijay Varma

Actress Dia Mirza, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming series 'IC814', has heaped praise on her co-actor Vijay Varma.

The trailer of the series was unveiled on Monday, and it follows the story of the hijack of the Indian Airlines Flight 814 by the Pakistani militants of the terrorist outfit Harkat-ul-Mujahideen.

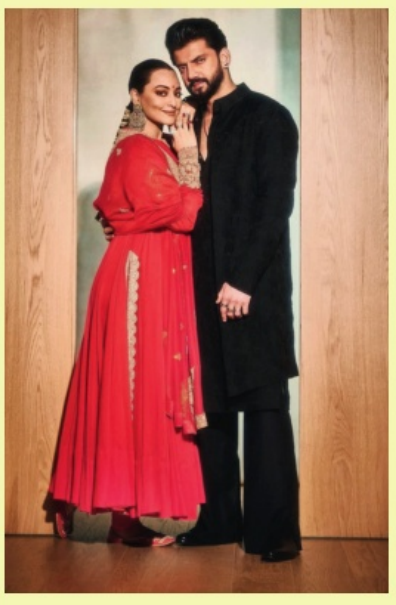
At the Malhar Film Festival, Dia Mirza spoke about Vijay's immersive approach for his role. She expressed her admiration for his complete dedication to the character, revealing that she never caught a glimpse of him outside of his character during the entire shoot.

Talking about the same, she said, "This guy has stayed in one space for his entire shoot. It was my dream to work with Vijay. On paper, we are part of the same story, but I never saw him at work. I have to find a way to make sure I get to work with him because I'm such a huge fan".

'IC814' is directed by Anubhav Sinha of 'Thappad', 'Mulk' and 'Article 15' fame. It is based on the hijack of the Indian Airlines Flight 814 shortly after it entered Indian airspace. The hijackers ordered the aircraft to be flown to a series of locations including Amritsar, Lahore, and across the Persian Gulf and Dubai. They finally forced the aircraft to land in Kandahar, Afghanistan, which at the time was controlled by the Taliban. The hijackers released 27 of 176 passengers in Dubai but fatally stabbed one and wounded several others. —IANS

Celebrating India

Recently, Sonakshi Sinha and husband Zaheer Iqbal were seen taking part in the India Day Parade in New York. Dressed in the colours of our National Flag, the duo definitely made the country proud, thousands of miles away. Sona wore a white salwar kameez with a saffron dupatta, and accessorised her look with green bangles. On the other hand, Zaheer looked dapper in an ethnic ensemble.



Zaheer and Sonakshi got married on June 23 in Mumbai. Later, in an exclusive chat with Bombay Times, the duo opened up on their intimate, yet high on love ceremony. Sona said, "It's just the way we wanted it. And that's just us, that is the kind of people we are, and we wanted our wedding day to reflect us. Right from sending out the invite, which a friend of ours made for us, to the wedding afterparty – we wanted it to be chilled out. We didn't want to have the whole rigmarole of multiple functions, and we were sure we wanted our wedding to be one big party..." —ETimes

GIFTED CHILD

Celebration of the festival Rakshabandhan has "evolved over the years" for actress Sanjana Sanghi. As the nation celebrates the festival today, the Dhak Dhak actress talks about her brother Sumer Sanghi and celebrating the festival.

"Growing up, Rakshabandhan used to be not just with my elder brother, but with all the cousins. It was a tradition for all of us to get together. Now that everyone's grown up and moved to different cities, so much of it is virtual. My elder brother itself, he's in New York. We don't get to celebrate in person anymore, which honestly makes me feel really bad," Sanjana recalls.

She further adds, "Growing up, I was very demanding about gifts. I used to sulk a lot if he didn't get me my favorite thing that I asked for. My expectations used to be off the wall. As you grow up, you mature and your priorities change. Now I live in Mumbai, and he lives in New York. The siblingship is long distance. So, just getting to spend time together, go on trips together, go back home to Delhi to our parents and with our dogs together and share the simpler moments is all I want for Rakshabandhan." —Vinay MR Mishra / TNN

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Sing along

The team of upcoming movie Jumbo Circus has been busy with promotional programmes. The team released three songs – Manasothe Manasaare, Grahachaara, and Gaanchali Gangavva – at MMB Legacy recently. Manasothe Manasaare is sung by Nakul Abhyankar with lyrics by Kaviraj and music by Vasuki Vaibhav.

Praveen Tej, who debuted in Sandalwood with Jolly Days, is playing the lead in Jumbo Circus. "My joy knew no bounds when producer Suresh told me that MD Sridhar is handling the megaphone for Jumbo Circus because it is Sridhar sir who helped me to make a debut in Sandalwood. I appreciate the heroine Anjali who has acted better than me in the movie," said Praveen Tej.

Anjali S Anish said she was lucky to get a good role in Jumbo Circus. "I appeal to movie buffs to support the film," she said.

MLA to play CM

We don't know if KR Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj will become the Chief Minister in real life but he is all set to become the Chief Minister in reel life. Basavaraj is expected to play the Chief Minister in Kuri Kayonu directed by Mahesh.

Mahesh is said to be Byrathi Basavaraj's staunch follower and a resident of KR Puram. Mahesh apart from directing the movie plays the lead in the film. The title of the movie was launched by Byrathi Basavaraj.

Basavaraj said Mahesh has been associated with Sandalwood for many years. "Mahesh is my friend. I am aware of his struggle and hard work. Now, he has decided to become an independent director in Sandalwood," said Basavaraj.

Mrs India Universe title winner Priya Rajesh is bankrolling the movie. "I have known director Mahesh for around 30 years. He has struggled a lot all these years. I want to support him in his endeavors," said Priya Rajesh.

Mahesh recalled how he used to steal money from his father's pocket to watch Kannada movies at theaters. "Some laughed at me when I told them I am playing the lead but many of my friends have encouraged me," said Mahesh.